Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-16 remain in the application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, and 16 have been amended.

In item 3 on page 3 of the final Office action dated November 8, 2004, claims 1-16 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Morris et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764, 900) (hereinafter "Morris") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found on page 15, lines 13-21 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*:

checking whether an error mode is switched on, and

producing an output signal in a method step and outputting the output signal only if the error mode is switched on.

The Morris reference discloses a system and method for communicating digitally-encoded acoustic information across a network between computers. Morris discloses how to process sound signals in a computer network with several computers transmitting sound data from several computer clients to another computer. All sound signals that are transmitted are played back by the last computer, which requires coordination of the sound signals that are transmitted. Morris discloses that the sound signals are transmitted with data packages carrying source addresses which indicate on which speaker the sound signal is to be played back. If the sound signal is to be played back on the right side speaker, that address is assigned to the sound signal and the same is arranged for the left side. Morris discloses a method of how to encode sound signals in order to guarantee correct playback on a corresponding speaker. Morris is silent about error modes.

The reference does not show checking whether an error mode is switched on, and producing an output signal in a method step and outputting the output signal only if the error mode is switched on, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The Morris reference discloses checking which address the

source signal has. Morris does not disclose checking if an error mode is switched on. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, which recites checking whether an error mode is switched on, and producing an output signal in a method step and outputting the output signal only if the error mode is switched on.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 2-8 are believed to be allowable as well.

Claim 9 calls for, *inter alia*:

the control apparatus being configured to check whether an error mode is switched on, and to output the output signal if the error mode is switched on.

The reference does not show the control apparatus being configured to check whether an error mode is switched on, and to output the output signal if the error mode is switched on, as recited in claim 9 of the instant application. The Morris reference discloses checking which address the source signal has. Morris does not disclose checking if an error mode is switched on or off. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the control apparatus is configured to check whether an error mode is switched on,

and to output the output signal if the error mode is switched on.

Since claim 9 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 10-16 are believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 9. Claims 1 and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 9, they are believed to be patentable as well.

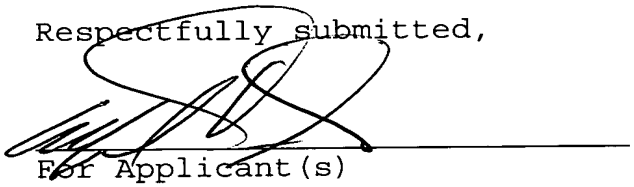
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg & Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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For Applicant(s)

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April 10, 2006

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